

Griswolds announce departure

BY MILLIE KIRKLAND
News Editor

On Friday, Nov. 17, Ms. Lemon, Director of the Upper School, announced to the student body that two beloved teachers would be leaving Harpeth Hall at the end of the school year.

The close of the 2018 school year will signify for the Griswold family the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in their lives: moving to São Paulo, Brazil.

"They have inspired all of us with their unbridled curiosity, their love of learning and excitement for trying new things, and their deep devotion to the craft of teaching," Ms. Lemon said.

Bridge projects, sludge projects, and the first trip to Camp Laney. Siddhartha sketches, Winterim lip-sync battles, amazing student performances, and funny Harkness discussions.

Just as girls travel through their lives at Harpeth Hall collecting snippets of their time here, many faculty members do as well. These memories are ones that each girl can fondly look back on. For David Griswold, Upper School Math teacher, and Meg Griswold, Upper School English teacher, this time of reflection is drawing nigh as they wrap up their time here at Harpeth Hall and anticipate their upcoming adventures.

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STARTING THE NEXT CHAPTER: Ready for their next adventure, Mr. and Mrs. Griswold pose in front of Souby Hall in November. Photo by Ellie Truitt.

Dr. Pethel releases new book on Nashville history

BY BUSHRA RAHMAN AND MARGARET GAW
Editors-in-Chief



UNTOLD STORIES: Dr. Pethel spoke about her book at Barnes and Noble on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017. Photo by Bushra Rahman.

Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel, Upper School social sciences teacher and Harpeth Hall archivist, strutted to the mic at Barnes and Noble on Sunday Nov. 19.

A few days later, she presented a book talk on her new novel, "Athens of the New South: College Life and the Making of Modern Nashville" to the Harpeth Hall community.

Harpeth Hall alumnae, Leah Portis, was excited to hear about her former APUSH teacher's novel. "Her book paints a fascinating picture of the development of the college in Nashville and really shows that the city is where it is today because of these schools. I loved the talk as a human, as a former Harpeth Hall student, and especially as a current Vandy student!" Leah Portis said.

Dr. Pethel's book details how Nashville's investment in higher education after the post-Civil War era resulted in a Southern cultural hub. Nashville Mayor Megan Barry said, "A diverse and vibrant collection of colleges and universities has always set Nashville apart from other southern cities. I'm excited to see Mary

Ellen Pethel exploring the history of a force for good that continues to inspire and shape our city."

Dr. Pethel took pieces of her dissertation to start the book. "I liken the process to a massive home renovation—instead of my building a house from the ground, I went into the house and I took it down to the studs and put it back together...I went through four drafts and had two editors," Dr. Pethel said.

The Harpeth Hall community equipped Dr. Pethel with many valuable connections, such as Karl Dean, David Williams (Vanderbilt Athletic Director), and Martha Ingram. "I thank all of those people and Harpeth Hall," Dr. Pethel said.

Dr. Pethel manages to balance her teaching, her archives work, her being the History Department head and her extensive novel. "I have always preferred to be busy rather than bored. It keeps things interesting. There was a stretch of nine months where I did not take a day off. Hard work pays off. These projects are once in a lifetime opportunities," Dr. Pethel said.

On Dec. 4, Dr. Pethel showcased her book at Harpeth Hall. Students and staff could buy hardbacks to get signed by their beloved teacher or colleague.

"We're so lucky to have someone in our community who has a passion not only for the city in which we live, but also for relaying to us that passion and research on the underlying reasons of why Nashville is the way it is," Kaili Wang, senior and former student, said. "Dr. Pethel's book talk heightened my appreciation and love for my hometown. In addition, it was really inspiring for us to hear the long yet rewarding process of her writing and publication."

Though not Dr. Pethel's first venture in novel writing (she has written four other nonfiction books), this has been her biggest project. She is receiving a lot of recognition for her hard work. "I just found out this week, I do not know what this really means, but this book has been nominated for the Tennessee History Book Award."

"In this small geek history society and niche, I'm famous," Dr. Pethel said.



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Griswolds announce departure

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FAMILY ON BOARD: The Griswolds and their children, Calvin, Matilda, and Everett, are ready for their new chapter. Photo courtesy of Meg Griswold.

Flashback to 2011--the Griswold family has just made the first of many life-changing decisions. Mr. and Mrs. Griswold (who is 5 months pregnant) have packed up their apartment in New York City to move to Nashville, Tennessee. Although the Griswolds have never even visited the city, they decide on Nashville as a good place to settle down

and start their family.

Looking back, the Griswolds' arrival was a journey similar to the one they are about to embark upon. It was the start to a chapter in which their three children were born. Now, the time has come again for them to set sail (literally).

In July 2018, the Griswolds will pack up, each into 3 suitcases, and move across

the world to begin their next adventure. They will be met, yet again, with a new school, a new city, and this time, a new country.

"The biggest factor is that my wife wanted to do it," Mr. Griswold said. "She essentially had to talk me into it... and now I am completely and 100% on board."

Although the impetus for the foreign move may have been Mrs. Griswold, both are looking forward to a change. Mrs. Griswold is drawn to the international aspect in part due to her childhood. Growing up, Mrs. Griswold attended an international school in Mexico City starting at age 10, and a school in Caracas, Venezuela from 6th grade through high school.

"I loved international schools; I loved living overseas. I had friends. My high school had over 27 languages spoken in it, and I had friends from all over the world, and I loved it. It was a really great community," said Mrs. Griswold.

As for the future beyond, it is a bit uncertain. Right now, they are packing (and selling) everything in their current home, preparing for the move, and on July 22, the Griswold family will depart for São Paulo. "It's a lot like leaping into the unknown or going to college. I have a short term plan but beyond that, there's a lot of possibilities," Mrs. Griswold said.

São Paulo is a mega-metropolis--its population of 22 million makes it the largest city in South America. Portuguese is spoken throughout Brazil, a language in which Mrs. Griswold is conversational and Mr. Griswold is not. They have been listening to podcasts in Portuguese to get accustomed to the language. "It just

flows past me," Mr. Griswold said. "I can't tell where one word ends and the other begins."

They will be teaching at The Graded School, the American School of São Paulo. Both will also be learning a new curriculum, Mrs. Griswold for Middle School humanities and Mr. Griswold for High School math.

Although there will be many differences including the coed, K-12 environment and the international student body, both hope to carry some of their lessons from Harpeth Hall into the new workplace.

"We at Harpeth Hall are so focused on helping students to know that they have the power to speak... I am hoping to bring a lot of my focus on teaching girls to the co-ed setting," Mrs. Griswold said.

"I love this place," Mr. Griswold said. "We're going to miss it immensely."

"I have had Mrs. Griswold for the past two years as an English teacher," Sophomore Walker McKnight said. "I cannot imagine my high school experience without her passionate, fun, and dedicated teaching style."

Senior Emma Downey said, "Mr. Griswold was a great advisor and then teacher. The Harpeth Hall community will certainly miss him next year as he embarks on his new adventures!"

"Their passion for both teaching and learning is inspiring, and they have taught me the importance of having a unique opinion," junior Bonner Kirkland said. "I was so lucky to have both of these teachers throughout my time at Harpeth Hall, and they will both be dearly missed."

Ann Webb Betty moves on from Harpeth Hall

BY MARGARET GAW
Editor-in-Chief

This November, Ann Webb Betty announced her resignation on Dec. 1 from her position as Harpeth Hall's database and website manager.

Beloved to faculty, staff and students alike, Ms. Betty has been the mastermind behind Veracross--our online database for students' admissions and academic information, teachers' assignments and reports and school directories.

Ms. Betty has also worn another hat: website manager. Five years ago, the communications department upgraded to a brand-new website. "Ms. Betty was instrumental in that because we had to build basically from scratch," Molly Rumsey, Director of Information Services, said.

Ms. Betty did not just begin her Harpeth Hall career a few years ago; indeed, she has 40 years of history at Harpeth Hall. "I came here in 1977 as a freshman. I played basketball...and I ended up going to college with three of us from here who played together at Rhodes and we just kinda blew it out," Ms. Betty said. "Three of us started out of five for three years. It was [former Upper School director] Jess Hill's sister-in-law, Tracy and [2017] graduate Hannah Hayes's aunt, Melissa. On the court and off the court, we have some good times."

Her love and support of our community shaped Ms. Betty's impact on students. "Our first advisory group

in the high school, she opened with 'I want to be your cool aunt on campus,'" said senior Adele Grohovsky, one of Ms. Betty's advisees. "Even though she is not a teacher, she still impacts a lot of us in the community. One with the work she has done with Veracross (it is really difficult) and because of that, I feel like she has her hand in every aspect of the high school."

Senior and fellow advisee Helen Rieke reiterated these sentiments. "She was always looking out for us," Helen Rieke said. "Each week, we would talk about our highs and lows and she really was that cool aunt on campus. My favorite memory was when we participated in a badminton tournament together and I'm not athletic so it was really nice that she coped with my skills--but Coach Baker defeated us."

The appreciation is reciprocated. "I love the energy of the students," Ms. Betty said. "I love walking from building to building and hearing the funny conversations of the little ones or the serious conversations any the students are talking about, whether it's a project or what they're doing on the weekend. The energy is just infectious."

Going forward, Ms. Betty plans to take some time off and regroup. She will stay tied to the community as she cheers on the Honeybears through basketball games and orchestra concerts. She will also sustain her best friend-teacher relationship with Upper School English teacher Scottie Girgus.

As for next steps with the Veracross



SAYING GOODBYE: Ms. Betty takes a break from working for an interview. Photo by Nealy Anderson.

and website manager position, not much is changing. Even so, the library, technology and communications departments constantly implement new and improved services and styles to our database and website.

Besides adding financial aid to the online platform, the department is working to merge the business and advancement offices with Veracross and the website database. "Our business office and advancement office are on different databases. We are trying to integrate

those instead of trying to share data between all of them," said Mrs. Rumsey. "But, of course, change is hard."

Senior and Ms. Betty advisee Jennie Gaw sums up Ms. Betty's impact on our community: "She has always been our number-one supporter. She cared about us always. She never put herself first; she was always there but did not put herself in the spotlight. She is selfless. You can tell she is a basketball player--supporting her team on the court."

HH offers new elective on Modernism

BY STELLA VUJIC
News Editor

The key to understanding the modern world lies in the study of Modernism—at least, that is what Harpeth Hall's newest elective course offering hopes to convey.

Upper School English and Media Arts teacher Joe Croker and Upper School History teacher Art Echerd are teaming up next year to teach a class on Modernism, a formative era in the arts and sciences lasting from the 1880s until around the 1960s. Freud, Picasso, Hemingway and many other familiar names of the 20th century are associated with this era.

Dr. Echerd originally came up with the idea for the semester-long course years ago. Describing his initial ideas for the class, Dr. Echerd said, "It would be nice to have a course that had as its primary mission to show how a particular cultural moment in the intellectual, scientific, technological, even political events of that time are reflected in the arts—in all the arts, not just painting or literature."

According to Mr. Croker, "I got pulled in after the idea was already germinating, which is where I like to come in anyway."

But team-teaching the course has always been part of the plan. "I didn't want to do it by myself because I thought it would lack so much if it didn't have another very different perspective," Dr. Echerd said.

Team-teaching will also allow for Dr. Echerd's deep-diving teaching style to blend with Mr. Croker's focus on breadth. "Dr. Echerd's inclination is to always dive deep...mine is to skim the surface and play upon connections between things," Mr. Croker said.

Although the course will survey everything from Impressionism to industrialism to mechanized war, "The



MAKE IT NEW: Dr. Echerd, left, and Mr. Croker, right, in anticipation of their team-taught class on Modernism this coming year. Photo by Stefanie Chiguluri.

arts and literature will be the mainstays," Mr. Croker said. "The longest work will be by Virginia Woolf. It will be 'To the Lighthouse'. I think it represents so many things about modernism, that shift from a staid culture...it seems to be on the fulcrum of that change."

For more scientific concepts, however, they hope to draw guest teachers from other departments to help teach. "[Upper School Physics teacher] Dr. [Leslie] Chamberlain wants to come in and talk about the physics revolution," Dr. Echerd said.

"It's one of my favorite topics," Dr. Chamberlain said. "Our worldview completely shifted because of the work done in science in the early 20th century.

Quantum mechanics and relativity were two huge shifts in our perception of the universe. We thought our entire universe was just a few stars, and then we realized there were thousands of galaxies."

Dr. Echerd hopes that the interdisciplinary nature of the course, the revolutionary ideas Modernism presents, and the proximity of Modernism to the present day will be draws for students. "The allure of the exotic will be there, but also the allure of the familiar," Dr. Echerd said.

"It combines everything that's fun to learn about, like art and social movements," junior Sarah Tolbert said. "It's something you can really see and apply every day."

Plus, the class offers a rare chance to experience the two longtime faculty members teaching together, something they have not done for years. "Croker and Echerd, together again!" Dr. Echerd joked.

"Reunion tour!," Mr. Croker added.

Jokes aside, the class would ultimately offer a highly interdisciplinary look into a radical era of human history. "I'm hoping it will be about interconnectedness," Mr. Croker said.

"I think students want to know why modernity is what it is, and why humans today act and perceive things the way they do," Dr. Echerd said. "This [Modernism] is where it originates."

China emerges as world leader on climate change

BY NEVA BASS
Staff Writer

A void of global power emerged when the United States withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord on June 1, 2017. In a world where many nations fight the deleterious consequences of climate change, one such nation is taking leadership: China. Through America's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate accord last June, the United States lost some of its international influence.

Recently, industrial powerhouse China, led by their communist President Xi Jinping, has been quick to fill this void of power left in America's wake. The New York Times called America's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord "perhaps the greatest strategic gift to the Chinese." Xi Jinping has been stepping seamlessly into the powerful role.

According to Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, China was the world's largest carbon emitter in 2016. Now, the country appears to be taking responsibility for its actions, becoming a global leader in the campaign against climate change. Chinese President Xi Jinping, speaking at the 2017 World Economic Forum, said, "The Paris Agreement is a hard-won achievement which is in keeping with the underlying trend of global development. All



TAKING THE LEAD: China's President Xi Jinping is poised to become the leader of the fight against climate change. Photo courtesy of CNN.

signatories should stick to it instead of walking away from it as this is a responsibility we must assume for future generations."

The United States is now the only country which is not a part of the Paris Climate Accord, as Syria signed the agreement on Oct. 31, 2017.

This year, China has revoked more than one hundred plans to build new coal-fueled power plants due to their harmful effects on the environment. President Xi is calling for his country to aid in efforts to, as he said in October at the Chinese Communist Party's conference: "Make the skies blue again."

"China apparently now is investing really heavily in its sustainable forms of energy," Upper School history teacher Dr. Art Echerd said. In addition, a new licensing system announced last November will by 2020 make it illegal to produce emissions without government permission, regardless of the type of industry.

This January, a new Environmental Tax law will become effective, requiring companies to be taxed on the amount of emissions they produce. Regions meeting environmental standards will be rewarded, while regions that do not will be penalized. "[China is] taking a driving seat in international cooperation to respond to climate change," President Xi said.

Renaissance man Womack thrives in Upper School

BY OLIVIA OLAFSSON, DHARA PATEL, AND BUSHRA RAHMAN

Features Editor, News Editor, and Editor-in-Chief

Although not an unfamiliar face at Harpeth Hall, Mr. Robert Womack just recently joined the Upper School Foreign Language Department as an AP Art history teacher this 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Womack taught Middle School Latin for nine years until joining the upper school team. Apart from being a beloved teacher, he is also well-known as the fearless leader of the HH bowling team.

Mr. Womack attended Montgomery Bell Academy and then went on to Yale University, double majoring in classical civilization and art history. His first teaching job was at USN teaching one class of AP Art History in 2004.

He was later offered to teach Latin at Harding Academy, where he taught for three years, while he received his Masters of Education from Vanderbilt University. He then saw an opportunity available at Harpeth Hall and became part of the Language Department in the fall of 2008.

During his time at MBA, Mr. Womack was passionate about Latin and Art History, which led him to a future career in teaching these subjects. "I had amazing teachers at MBA who taught me Latin...it's so interesting to learn a language that is not spoken anymore and to see the effect it still has on so many aspects of our lives and



WOMACK'S WISDOM: Mr. Womack never fails to bring excitement and humor to his AP Art History class. Photo by Ellie Truitt.

society today," Mr. Womack said.

Now at Harpeth Hall, Mr. Womack enjoys teaching art history and has found that the subject provides him with some creative outlet. "You're able to have more of a discussion in the art history classroom and have a back-and-forth with students while analyzing art that you wouldn't have otherwise," Mr. Womack said.

He has spent almost his entire life in an academic environment, from high school through his professional career, which allows for much comfort within the classroom setting. His level of expertise is demonstrated through his teaching.

"Although it's mostly a lecture style class, Mr. Womack also

gives us the opportunity to give our own ideas which lead to more interesting discussions," senior Helen Rieke said. "He always relates the arts with previous artwork so there's a continuous theme throughout the course. And of course, his unique sense of humor makes the class even more enjoyable."

Apart from his teaching, there are many interesting aspects of Mr. Womack's life. He has lived in Nashville all of his life, besides his college experience in Connecticut, and both of his parents were educators as well. Mr. Womack's father teaches at MBA and his mother was a librarian at Vanderbilt University. Mr. Womack is also a dedicated Titans fan, as well as

an avid Harry Potter enthusiast. Music festivals and concerts also occupy Mr. Womack's life. He also enjoys an occasional Taco Tuesday.

Not only does Mr. Womack have an impact on the academic community, he also contributes to Harpeth Hall's sports community. Mr. Womack has been the school's bowling coach for nine years.

"It's fun to see the girls in a different light than you would in the classroom," said Mr. Womack. His coaching has proved successful this year, as the bowling team won the regional championship during this year's season. The bowling team had three very close wins this season.

"When your heart's pounding and the sweat's pouring down ...and you have Dhara Patel bowling in the last frame...and they have to win their last match and they come through, it's just an exhilarating experience," Mr. Womack said.

Throughout his time at Harpeth Hall, Mr. Womack has gained a better understanding of what it means to be an educator and how to keep students engaged.

He also realizes the intensity of the Harpeth Hall curriculum and has learned to be more patient and understanding towards his students. "I've learned how to put myself in the shoes of a student. I remember when I was a student and how hard high school was," Mr. Womack said.

He appreciates the capability and dedication of the student body, and is grateful for his position as a teacher in a high level institution. "Teachers at Harpeth Hall here have it so easy in terms of the quality of students," said Mr. Womack.

One of Mr. Womack's most cherished memories at Harpeth Hall was winning the Heath Jones Prize in 2011, which awards teachers' excellence in the classroom. Both of his parents attended the ceremony. "It was special to have them there together to see me get the award," Mr. Womack said, "and the support of the faculty and the student body and all the kind words after I won made Harpeth Hall feel like home."

All your burning questions answered: Ask Camija returns

BY CAMILLE PATTON

Features Editor

Dear Camija,

As exams are approaching, it sort of feels like there is a thundercloud above my head... all of my best friends are getting SO stressed out, so I am starting to experience this stress by default. Do you have any tips or tricks to limit my feelings of stress before and during exams?

From,
Thundercloud feelings

Dear Thundercloud Feelings,

I am so sorry that you are feeling this way-- I have had plenty of experience in your same position. I am also someone that-- when alone-- I do not experience much stress, but when I am around other people I feel like I am suffocating. It can be tragic, because absorbing other people's emotions can leave you feeling drained and distracted. So, my first piece of advice is to limit your time around those stressed out friends. If they ask you to go to a study group (and you know that all they're going to do is worry), then kindly say no. "Why?", they ask... "Well... did you read Ask Camija? Yeah, that question was about you." Actually don't say this, but you can kindly say that their stress leaves you feeling overwhelmed and you would feel most productive studying alone-- rather than stuDYING with them.

Another thing that helps me during exam week is going on a hike, taking a bike ride, or even just taking my dog to the dog park. Getting outside during exam week helps limit my feelings of angst and nausea that unfortunately coincide with exam week. Getting outside makes me feel less like a loser, less like a pale orc from Lord of the Rings, and more like the Hobbits, elves, and extraordinary humans that we all are! (btw you should all watch Lord of the Rings during a study break over the weekend... you won't regret it).

So, this exam week, definitely take a deep breath, because if you can take one piece of advice from Camija, it would be: Chill. Out. Stress only hurts you and it literally has zero benefits...

Best of luck ladies, you knock the socks off of your exams!

Love,
Camija

Dear Camija,
I am worried about winter break. Some of my family members always badger me with questions about my future, but I'm not clairvoyant. How do I address them without being rude?

From,
The (Non) Fortune Teller

Dear (Non) Fortune Teller,
I have come to appreciate questions just as this, for you can always come up with

something creative in the process to cut all further conversation. Nosy family members bothered me at a time... but now I have learned to embrace the fun and tell them exactly what they do not want to hear. It puts a little more joy into the holiday season knowing that you have this power over your badger-like family members.

"So Camija, what college are you going to? What are you going to major in? What are your plans after graduation?" ... hmmm... time to take creative action...

"Well, Grandma, I do not know. Maybe I'll just go with my gut and cut loose-- take a gap year? Move to Idaho and become a potato farmer? Maybe! Who knows grandma, life takes many routes, and I'm just trying to figure it all out. I'm sure you felt confused like this at some point in your life, right?"

Putting the question back onto them helps them self-reflect and realize that teenagers do not and will not have their lives figured out for a while. Have fun with you antsy relatives, and remember that they just want to know because they love you and their pressing questions don't need an exact, final answer.

Love,
Camija



CONQUER THE COSMOS WITH CAMIJA: Decked out in her galactic garb, Camija casts her answers to every wanting student. Photo by Maggie Tattersfield.

Freeman family: Are they the Kardashians of HH?

BY CARTER HYDE

Staff Writer

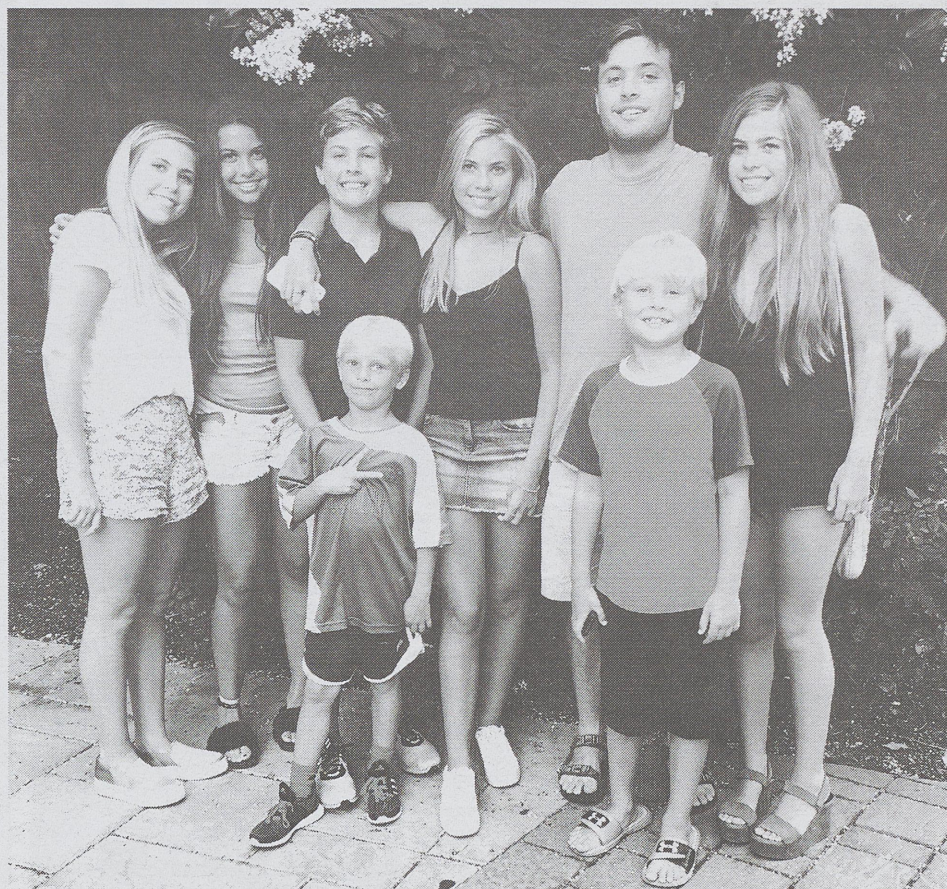
Kynlie, Kaden, Kyra Blake, Kyler, Kalla, Kase, Kael, and Kully. Like the Kardashians, their names all start with K. All the girls either attend or have graduated from Harpeth Hall. Eight kids, three dogs, two parents, one house. The Kardashians manage to control their crazy, big family, and it's evident that the Freemans do too.

Kardashian viewers are intrigued by the glamour, drama, fame, and comedic fights that the family portrays in each episode. The Freeman family proves that having a big family can have disadvantages, like the Kardashians, but also shows the heart-warming truth of the matter. Through the multiple sacrifices they make, the Freemans show their love and support for each other through their close bond.

When the Freeman ten joined the Nashville community many questions arose. Questions about the family's background are prevalent in their everyday lives. Questions such as, do you have a big house? Twins? Are you all from the same parents? Catholic? Tired of receiving these questions, the Freemans are ready to answer them.

The many advantages of having a big family include: never being alone, always having someone to talk to, and seven other people that are raised by the same parents. "One advantage is you will never be responsible for taking care of us when we are older," Mrs. Stacia Freeman, the heroic mother of eight, said. "You can all just take shifts."

Mrs. Freeman's humor is evident in the lives of her children as well. Kase, the sixth oldest, said one advantage is "always



MODERN DAY BRADY BUNCH: The Freeman siblings (from left to right top to bottom: Kynlie, Kyler, Kase, Kalla, Kaden, Kyra Blake, Kully, Kael) enjoy a family dinner in the Gulch in July. Photo courtesy of Kyra Blake Freeman.

having someone to pick on."

Though many great things come from their large family, many sacrifices have been made to fulfill everyone's needs. The family's lifestyle at home is altered to adjust and fit each kid's needs. Kyler and Kalla share rooms and have for their entire lives. Kalla said, "I try to go to bed at a decent time like 9 every night and I can't because Kyler is taking selfies of herself and videoing herself like oh my

gosh I'm so tired but I have two tests tomorrow."

The frequent ringing of Kyler's alarm prevents Kalla from getting a full night's sleep. For Kyler, sharing a room means not being able to do homework because Kalla goes to bed too early. Kyler expresses her excitement for taking Kyra Blake's room when she goes off to college. Kael and Kully also must make a sacrifice and share their rooms.

Mrs. Freeman said, "we don't have many traditions anymore because everyone tears things up." For instance, the family's past tradition of putting up nutcrackers ended when the younger boys used them as action figures and destroyed them. Additionally, every Christmas the Freemans would set up a nativity scene, until one of the boys broke Jesus' head off. Although some of their traditions were crushed, the family still creates special ones today, such as eating Mexican food at El Palenque each Friday night.

A family of four or five's "normal" is not suitable for a family the Freeman's size. What may seem normal to most families is altered to fit their needs. Big road trips are often split up between kids to avoid the difficulties of traveling with such large numbers. Leftovers, that typical families save in the fridge, are gone in seconds. Siblings struggle to find time to invite their friends over due to the annoyance of siblings. The family has learned to adjust to their perfect kind of "normal."

Kalla said, "We're not as weird as we seem." Many things set the family apart other than the number of people they have. Their blue eyes, addiction to Starbucks, and healthy lifestyle makes the family special and unique.

Mrs. Freeman said, "We are no Kardashians." No fancy cars, no trust fund, and no mansion, because, as the Freeman's have shown, that's not what family is about. Though chaotic at times, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. The family stays positive and perseveres through difficult times. They may lack the glitz and glam, but they have something much better: love.

A sweet time in Switzerland: Maddux studies abroad

BY ELEANOR HENDERSON

Staff Writer

Sophomore Celeste Maddux has been in Zermatt, Switzerland since Sept. 7, hiking, studying, and skiing in a program for high school sophomores called Swiss Semester.

Swiss Semester was founded in 1986 to challenge high school sophomores from both public and private schools primarily in the United States, and occasionally from other countries, during their fall semester. The program incorporates travel to Italy, France, and different parts of Switzerland into its curriculum. Serving around 50 students, the program has a student-to-teacher ratio of approximately four to one.

Raymond Robbins, founder of Swiss Semester, said that he "recognized that sophomore year in most high schools was a 'down' year." He created a program for sophomores that would create opportunities for travel and learning.

"Students could then use this newfound independence and confidence to get the most of their high school and college experiences," said Robbins.

Maddux felt compelled to learn more about the world through first hand experience. "I wanted to do the exchange to just get out of my comfort zone, see what else is out there," Maddux said. "I wanted to change it up a little bit and try something new."

She found the program through a camp friend who asked if she wanted to apply to go to Swiss Semester. When

they began to research the opportunity, Maddux said, "It was the perfect program . . . I decided to apply and see what would happen."

Maddux was thrilled upon her admittance; however, she said, "I was nervous about the hiking, the skiing, the physical aspects. I was worried about the academics and how I was going to keep up with that. I had so many things to look forward to, but also to be nervous about."

Instead of staying with a local host family, Maddux and her classmates stay in a four-star hotel where the dorm rooms and Swiss Semester school are located. Classrooms are arranged in the basement of the hotel.

Maddux's schedule is a busy one. She wakes up, eats breakfast and has four 50-minute classes. She then has four hours of hiking or skiing, after which she comes back and has two more classes, dinner, and study hall.

Maddux's classes are similar to those at Harpeth Hall. Spanish and Algebra use her textbooks from Harpeth Hall, and geology focuses on local natural resources. "At the beginning, it was hard, and I was really kind of struggling, but once I got into the groove of things... it was fine. Now I'm just zooming through all my work and my time management is so much better," said Maddux.

The biggest difference Maddux noted between Switzerland and the United States was that the Swiss are more

punctual and surprisingly quiet.

Maddux explained that the first two weeks were fun, but very hectic. "The first two weeks were the hardest part. You kind of get thrown into it, and you aren't allowed to talk to your parents. You can't open any letters. Everyone is in the same boat. Everyone's all tired, we're all jet-lagged, and in a new environment," said Maddux.

Swiss Semester does not allow students to have cell phones, so that they can fully immerse themselves in the program. Friend of Maddux and Harpeth Hall sophomore Martha Milek said, "It's been difficult to get in touch with her, but it's unique when I receive a letter. It takes two weeks to send a letter there and back, but I know she's having an amazing time. She said the program has really changed her."

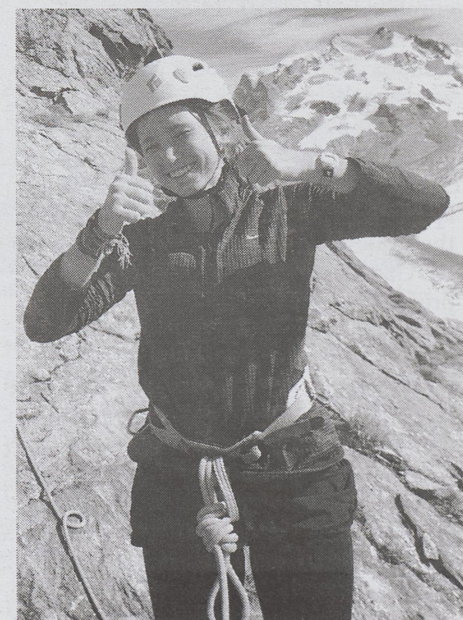
Maddux's favorite aspect of the program is the people. Maddux said, "I've met all these different people from all over the world . . . people from different backgrounds and I've got fifty new friends, coming from different corners of the country."

The Zermatt location of the program is also ideal. Maddux said, "I'm looking out of my window right now at the mountains. It doesn't get much better than that."

Maddux advises students considering a program like Swiss Semester or any study abroad to take advantage of the location and the opportunities that are available. Maddux said, "It's easy to just

be oblivious to what's around you. It's important to take a moment, step back, take a picture, thank your parents, thank everyone for how you got there."

Maddux will be returning to Nashville on Dec. 6. She recommends the program to all Harpeth Hall students. "I want them all to come sign up and apply because I'm the first one from Harpeth Hall in like twenty years, and I want Harpeth Hall to start sending girls," Maddux said. "It's such a great program, and I love it so much. I never want to leave."



SWEETER THAN SWISS CHOCOLATE: Sophomore Celeste Maddux climbs Riffelhorn in the Alps in between classes. Photo courtesy of Celeste Maddux.

Personality Quiz: What holiday movie is for you?

BY SHAYE HENDRICKS

Features Editor

GRAPHIC BY STEFANIE CHIGULURI

Photography Editor

Holiday movies are vital for getting into the holiday spirit. Movies like "Elf," "Love Actually" and "Rudolph" are beloved films. Each of these movies gives off a different feel for the holiday season, so take the quiz to decide which movie you should watch over the break!

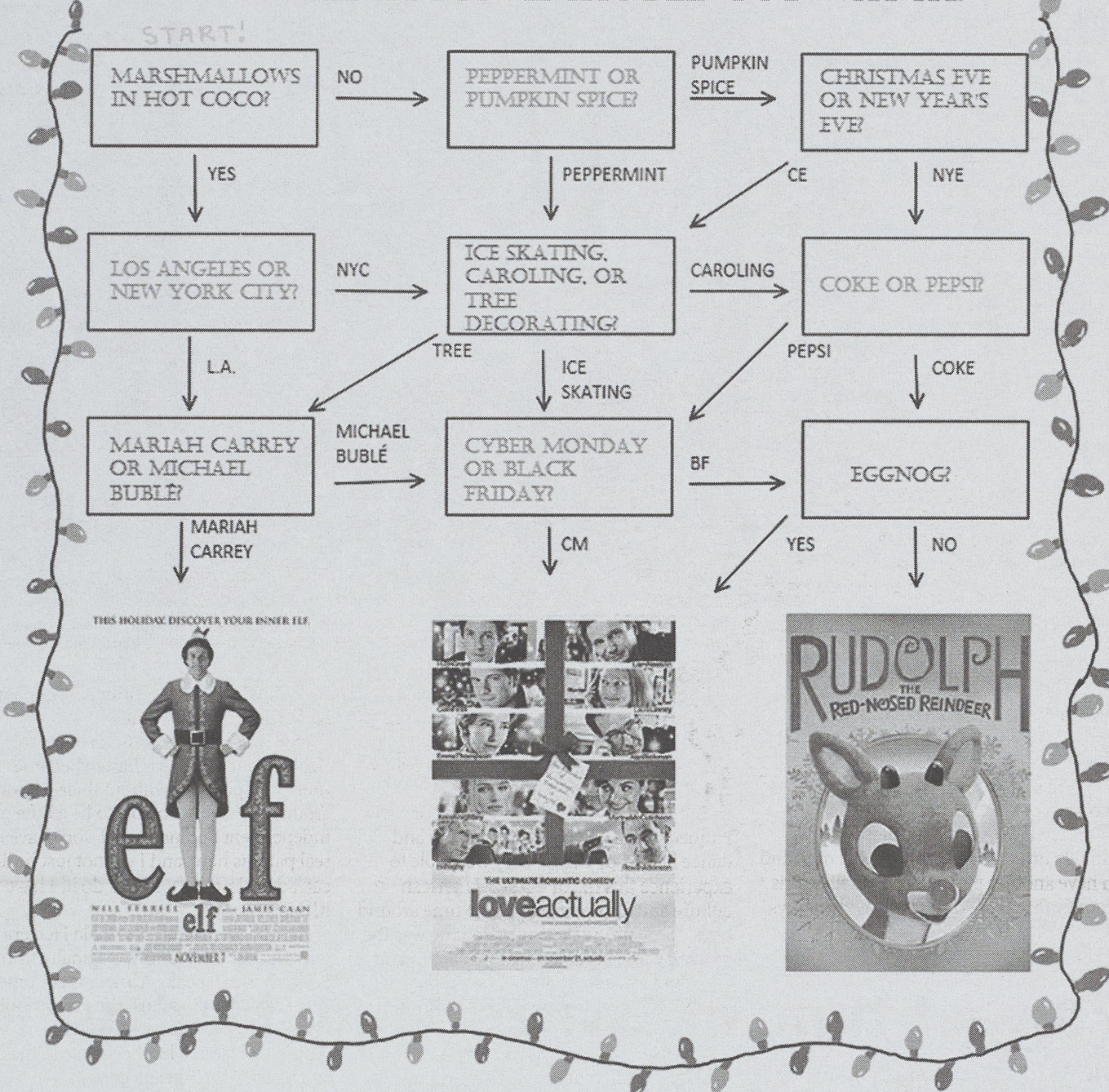
If you matched with "Elf," your holiday spirit is at an all-time high right now, despite the approaching exams. Like Buddy, you find cheerfulness in even the most mundane of things this season-- 30 degree weather with no snow, material-cramming nights and final problem sets. You may eat way too many candy canes and you struggle to sleep on Christmas Eve out of excitement for the morning's festivities. Mariah Carey is your top played artist this month, and hot chocolate is your favorite after school pick-me-up.

If you matched with "Love Actually," you are the romantic of your friends. It's cuffing season, ladies, so find that mistletoe and lucky guy or gal to spend your holiday season with. And maybe even hit up Centennial Sportsplex for that super romantic ice skating date. Are you a strong and independent woman? Have no fear. You can find warmth from the Sage dining hall plates or your computer charger after binge watching an entire season on Netflix (no shame).

Lastly, if your pick was "Rudolph," you are a dedicated fan of the holiday classics. You enjoy decorating gingerbread houses and baking Pillsbury cookies. Your holiday playlist consists of Bing Crosby, Michael Buble and Frank Sinatra. This stop motion film will never fail to make you nostalgic for all of your past Christmases.

No matter which movie you were matched with, take advantage of this cheerful time of year. Spend time with family, fall in love, and most of all watch some holiday movies.

WHAT HOLIDAY MOVIE SHOULD YOU WATCH?



Students study the sciences: STEM program at HH

BY OLIVIA OLAFSSON

Features Editor

Harpeth Hall students harbor a multitude of talents and are known to pursue their interests in a higher academic setting. This level of pursuit is exemplified in the Harpeth Hall STEM program that is offered to juniors and seniors through Vanderbilt University. Thirteen students this year are currently enrolled in this class. It counts as a science elective and the students leave campus during free blocks or X blocks to work on their projects.

To begin, students submit an application to Dr. Stacy Klein-Gardner, STEM coordinator, in the early spring to apply for the program. When selected, the students discuss their interests with Dr. Gardner and review Vanderbilt professors, as well as which projects most align with their passions. Once a student is paired with a scientist, her project differs depending on whether it is independent, with a graduate student or with a team of scientists. Once the project is completed, the final product is entered into several science fairs the following spring.

Junior Caleigh Dennis is one student who finds joy in the realm of space. Her project measures the overall rotation of galaxy groups to see if there is a discernible effect on them by the rotation

of dark matter halos (which is the dark matter that surrounds every group of galaxies). She chose this certain topic because she has loved space ever since her father handed her an illustrated copy of "A Brief History of Time" by Stephen Hawking when she was in sixth grade.

She feels strongly about the inclusion of women in the sciences. "When you are only allowing 50% of a society in a certain field, you are not utilizing the full potential of what we as people can do and you are not going to end up with the best ideas or the most effective approach to just about anything," Dennis said.

She encourages girls who are interested in the sciences to be ambitious and not feel threatened by male-dominated careers.

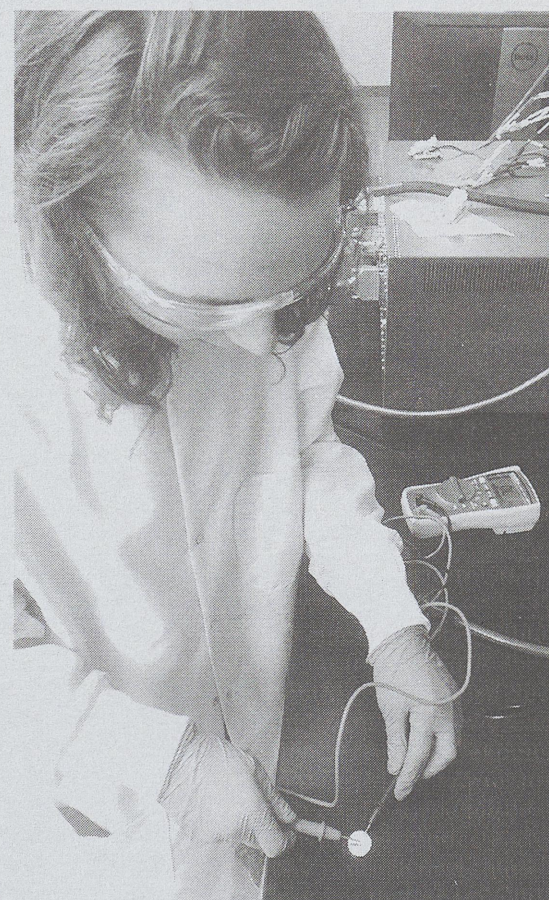
Dennis has also maneuvered her way through difficult situations of the project with a growth mindset. She admits that adjusting to the coding language was difficult, yet she now feels confident in her coding abilities. "I went in not knowing anything about coding, and now when I go into Starbucks people come up behind me and ask me what I'm doing," she said.

Senior Dhara Patel also participated in the STEM program last year. Patel studied an antimicrobial protein called Calprotectin and how it interacts with different metals.

Going into the program, Patel had little experience in scientific research or working in a lab. Yet by the end of her experience, she was able to apply her skills in the Harpeth Hall AP Chemistry class. The experience was beneficial on many levels. "I would not have learned basic research skills like how to filter through research papers or how to properly clean up after an experiment if I were taking a regular science class instead," she said.

Her final project included a research paper that she developed throughout the year. The project went through competition in the following spring. She is now working on a third project that compares a similar protein to the same metals.

The dedication of the STEM participants are a reflection of the Harpeth Hall student body. These innovative and creative projects may be the foundation for groundbreaking scientific discoveries in the near future. The Harpeth Hall STEM program is an ideal way to introduce girls into the sciences and cultivate skills that are needed to be successful in the field.



TESTING THE BATTERY: Senior Stella Vujic experiments with batteries at Vanderbilt University for her STEM project this fall. Photo courtesy of Stella Vujic.

HH opens doors to exchange students

BY JESSIE WILLS

Staff Writer

This fall, Harpeth Hall hosted students from South Africa and Guatemala.

In exchange, some of the students who have hosted will have the opportunity to study abroad as well. Students who participate in this program have an opportunity to explore another culture, learn new languages and social skills, while also making lasting friendships.

From Oct. to Dec., Harpeth Hall hosted three students from Guatemala through the "Faces and Our Cultures" program: Vale Herrera, hosted by sophomore Jami Hamman; Karen Hernandez, hosted by junior Ana Gonzalez; and Tefi Rosal, hosted by sophomore Jessie Wills.

In addition, Meg Swallow from South Africa, hosted by senior Mary Johnson, visited Harpeth Hall through the exchange program. When she arrived, she was surprised by Harpeth Hall being an all-girls school.

Herrera also noted the difference between her co-ed school in Guatemala and the all-girls environment at Harpeth Hall. "It's definitely fun [to have boys around me], and you have another perspective, because girls definitely think in a different way than guys do," Herrera said.

Hernandez had a different take on the all-girls atmosphere. "Being only with girls is a new experience, but I really like it because you can feel how they are always there for each other," she said.

The Guatemalan exchange students had an added layer of difficulty in their classes: the language barrier. They were challenged with writing essays, reading books and taking notes in English. They were also enrolled in Spanish classes, where they could speak in their first language comfortably.

Along with speaking English during school, the Guatemalan students were also able to improve their conversational and



WELCOME TO NASHVILLE: Mrs. Watlington and student hosts (Ana Gonzalez, Maddie Harlan, and Jami Hamman) greet their exchange sisters from Guatemala (Vale Herrera, Karen Hernandez, and Tefi Rosal) at the Nashville airport in Oct. Photo courtesy of Jesse Wills.

social skills at home and with friends. "I learned how to be out of my comfort zone speaking in another language, and being with people that I didn't know. It helps me a lot," Rosal said.

The students arrived just in time for Homecoming, the big football game and dance hosted by MBA. They were able to experience this major part of American culture and also spending some time around boys. "Something that surprised me was the football game because it was really fun and everybody was so excited about it," Rosal said. "In my country, we don't have those types of activities, and it was so fun."

After school, the exchange students dabbled in different activities including dance, soccer, and strength and conditioning. They eventually began to all go do workouts together after school to stay in shape, as the American diet can be hard to adjust to.

While in the United States, the exchange hosts have taken the students to a variety of places in and outside of Nashville, including the Country Music Hall of Fame, a Predators game, basketball games, Cheekwood, the

mall, bowling, roller skating, Disney World, New York City and more.

Due to the length of their stay in the United States, the girls had to become more independent without their parents around. "I have been able to be a little more independent because now I don't have my real parents here, and I cannot just be like, 'I can't do this, my mom will do it.' I have to do it," Herrera said.

An added challenge for Vale Herrera was that her host family, originally from South Africa, speaks Afrikaans at home. The family had to adjust their household customs to help Herrera acclimate. However, Herrera has been able to pick up a few words of Afrikaans herself.

As their stay came to a close in early December, they got to see the beginnings of the Christmas atmosphere that started even before Thanksgiving, and feel a few days of cold weather that is uncharacteristic of their home countries.

Next semester the Harpeth Hall community will welcome students from New Zealand, France and Germany. Be sure to say hello and welcome them to the Hall.

AP English Lang investigates the U.S. food industry

BY CATARINA CARTER

Staff Writer

This semester, the AP English Language class watched and examined Food, Inc., an impactful documentary made by filmmaker Robert Kenner. The film exposes large-scale corporations who have monopolized the American food industry, and who now hold the power to control how our food is produced and the conditions in which farmers and workers operate.

A main topic touched upon by Food, Inc. was the conditions in which stock animals are raised. The film offered gruesome images—feed lots packed with hormone-infused steers and pigs drowning in their own manure. A solution to this problem, as proposed by Mrs. Girgus, is awareness. "The solution is hard, but first of all I think the public needs to be aware and to care," she said.

Feedlots lead to more meat, which leads to more money, cheaper prices and higher obesity rates. In fact, the number

of people who suffer from diabetes in the United States rose from 9% in 1950 to 35% in 2012.

A large percentage of the American population cannot afford to shop at Whole Foods or buy "clean" food, so they turn to one of the 247,191 fast food restaurants across the country that serve as the main source of a possibly life-threatening disease. Luckily at Harpeth Hall, students are served nutritious food ethically produced by local farmers.

Peter Fox, the director and manager of the Harpeth Hall dining hall, works hard to source locally-grown produce. What most girls don't realize is that most of the food served in the dining hall, excluding citrus and tropical fruits like bananas, comes from within a 150 mile radius of Nashville, which is an amazing feat when you have to feed over 500 people daily.

Cage-free eggs, local mushrooms, zucchini and bok choy are a few examples of fresh items found in our cafeteria. "We spend more money on fresh produce than

groceries and meat combined," Mr. Fox said.

For those who enjoy a nice piece of beef or chicken, rest assured that your hamburger didn't travel 500 miles in the back of a truck, it came from our neighboring state: Kentucky.

As the demand for food in the United States is increasing, the number of agriculturalists and farms is decreasing at an alarming rate. In 1840, over 70% of American laborers worked in agriculture, today, barely 2% still work in the industry. In just five years, from 2007 to 2012, the U.S. experienced a net loss of 90,000 farms as a result.

Many argue that recent generations have become disinterested in agriculture, and that can be seen in the age of our farmers. About one third of American farmers are over the age of 65, and when they are gone, who will stand up to the plate and feed our country? Most importantly, what kind of food will we find on our plates?

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WELL THE WEATHER OU

~HH WINTER

“DURING KATY BOWERS’ FIRST YEAR, HER STUDENTS WERE GIVEN THE ASSIGNMENT TO MAKE A SNOWMAN THAT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WORLD CULTURES CLASS. SO THEY MADE A MARIE ANTOINETTE SNOWWOMAN WITHOUT A HEAD.”

- DR. ART ECHERD, UPPER SCHOOL SOCIAL SCIENCES TEACHER

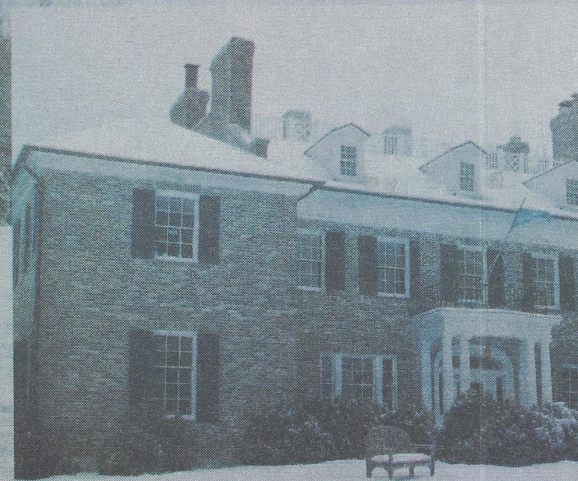
“IN CONNECTICUT, WE OFTEN HAVE SNOW DAYS UNLESS THE WEATHER IS ICY, SO WHENEVER IT SNOWS, I WOULD GET UP AROUND 6 AM AND SLEDDING BEFORE SCHOOL. WE ALWAYS END UP BEING LATE BECAUSE WE NEVER WANTED TO GO INSIDE AND GET READY!

- CAROLINE KIESLING (S

Scientific Facts about Snow:

Farmers use the amount of heavy fog in the fall to predict the number of snow days in the winter.

10 out of the last 11 Nashville winters have had record high temperatures.



OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL...

WINTER TALES~

WE OFTEN WOULDN'T HAVE
S THE ROADS WERE REALLY
R IT SNOWED MY BROTHERS
UP AROUND 6AM AND GO
SCHOOL. BUT THEN WE'D
EING LATE TO SCHOOL
R WANTED TO COME BACK
READY!
LING (SENIOR)

"ONCE IT SNOWED, AND THE ART ROOM
WAS BELOW THE THEATER IN THE BLACK
BOX. THERE WERE NO INTERCOMS OR ANY
EMAILING. THEY FORGOT TO TELL US.
THE STUDENTS WERE WORKING AWAY AND A
STUDENT CAME UP TO ME AND SAID, 'MR.
GOODWIN, IT'S SNOWING REALLY HARD AND
EVERYONE HAS LEFT'."

- MR. PETER GOODWIN, UPPER SCHOOL FINE
ARTS TEACHER



Superstitions to Bring Snow:

Snow dance in your front yard!

Yell "snow day" into your
freezer!

Put a spoon under your pillow!

BY MGAW, EL, BUSH

Aging McMurry Center requires renovations

BY NISHA RAMANNA
Staff Writer

If you attend Harpeth Hall, you've been inside the McMurry building. You've sat in the auditorium and watched plays and concerts performed by our students. But perhaps you've taken orchestra and have had to practice in a gym where you've been constantly distracted by people walking through your "classroom."

Perhaps you've rehearsed with an entire choir in a room so small the teacher cannot back up far enough to see all the girls at one time.

Perhaps you've been involved in theatre and practiced your scenes under the stairs, in tiny dressing rooms and in crowded closets filled with costumes.

Perhaps you've seen people standing in the back of assemblies sitting in white foldable chairs because there simply aren't enough seats.

If you've experienced any of these things, then it's no secret to you that the McMurry building at Harpeth Hall is not perfect.

"When I interviewed for my job 15 years ago, they said, 'We know the building is not adequate, but we're hoping to renovate it soon.' 15 years later, we're still waiting,"

Performing Arts Department Chair Nancy Turner said.

It's not just teachers who recognize the flaws of this building. According to a Logos survey, 76% of students think the size of the areas given to the art programs are too small, and 70% think these areas are under-maintained. These people aren't wrong.

"This is my eighth year rehearsing in a basement," said senior Halle Petrie. "Harpeth Hall has a good music program, but bad facilities to match it."

Fixing the McMurry building is a complex process. Currently, it is grandfathered in, meaning the building doesn't have to be up to current code. If Harpeth Hall chooses to renovate, the building will lose its status as being grandfathered in and will have to be brought up to current code.

This supports my belief that the entire McMurry building will have to be torn down completely and rebuilt in order to bring it up to the Harpeth Hall standard.

The problem with the arts program at Harpeth Hall isn't just limited to this building. There is a lack of space for these departments. Performers have trouble even fitting into the wings of the theater when



GYM OR ORCHESTRA ROOM?: Seats wait to be filled by students in the make-shift practice studio in the old McMurry gym. Photo by Kathleen Norton

waiting to go on-stage because they have to be used for storage.

Theater teacher Ms. Janette Fox Klocko said, "There are so many girls interested in participating in the arts that we just don't have enough room for them."

As a whole, the performing arts program is receiving much less attention and money from our school than they deserve. The little space they have is functional at best.

Our school needs to recognize the value

of the arts department and provide our faculty and students passionate about the performing arts with the facilities they deserve.

Of course, while the school has plans to renovate the space, rebuilding McMurry will be an expensive project. I hope that those in the Harpeth Hall community who love the arts will be able to work together and help fund this project.

Standardized tests today are far from standard and far from necessary

BY BIANCA SASS
Opinions Editor

December boasts many important occasions: impromptu Khalid performances, midterm exams, the holidays, and early admission decisions. As the topic of college permeates many conversations and juniors begin preparing for the SAT/ACT, this question always arises: is there a point to standardized testing? In theory, yes. In reality, they are far from standardized and far from achieving their goal.

Deliberations over testing began to feel especially relevant to me after touring Wake Forest. WFU, a university in North Carolina, has been test-optional since 2008. Their website states, "For the record, it's not that we think standardized tests are evil. We just think that the measure of your

intelligence and potential requires a deeper dive. Numbers rarely tell the whole story."

This change contributed to increased diversity in WFU's freshman classes, and they found no difference in academic performance between those who chose to submit their test scores and those who did not.

In defense of testing, many HH girls expressed that it is the best means to level the playing field. At some schools, teachers give A's to virtually every student, while at others, 4.0 GPAs are unattainable. Many believe SAT/ACT scores can give colleges more accurate insight into the academic level of students experiencing either extreme.

While there is validity in this argument, I admire Wake Forest for breaking away from the pack.

All these scores show is how adept you are at taking the test itself. The format of normal assessments will not even remotely resemble that of an SAT/ACT.

If a college aimed to have classes full of good standardized test-takers, scores would be a great tool. But some of these skills can be assessed through essays, and the other skillsets should not be given as much weight as they are.

Senior Eleonor Wright said, "If they believe the rest of their application process is super holistic, then it's good that they don't feel the need to have test scores."

These tests have another fundamental issue as well: they are structured in favor of America's white population. People who have a higher socioeconomic standing and English as their first language, have an unfair advantage. Hispanic students and

students of color are proven to perform more poorly on these examinations because many live in neighborhoods whose schools have fewer resources to devote to test preparation. This phenomenon is called "the achievement gap," and could explain Wake Forest's increase in diversity after becoming test-optional.

Even Harpeth Hall students, who are more likely to perform well on testing due to this bias, recognize the underlying problem. "Standardized testing isn't on a standardized level, as far as preparation and resources go," said senior Halle Petrie.

There is little to lose and much to gain from the decision being made by colleges such as Wake Forest. Hopefully more universities in the future will choose to see more in each applicant than a number between 1 and 36.

What is your favorite holiday time tradition?



"We go see a band, The Ornaments. They are cool. They play songs from the Charlie Brown Christmas Album. They perform at the Family Wash, a restaurant on Main Street."

Emily Beach, junior



"We throw a Hanukkah party the day after exams. We make latkes, play dreidel and light the Menorah. It's fun to celebrate the holidays with family and friends."

Sydney Schwartz, senior



"When we toast, we say slainte and bang our glasses against the table to bump away the bad spirits. Slainte means health in Gaelic."

Nev Fenelon, freshman

Students split over new exam schedule

PRO

BY ABIGAIL NICHOLS
Staff Writer

December is a time of both learning and re-learning old material, as you're about to be tested on a semester's worth of knowledge. In previous years, Harpeth Hall students have had five days of exams, back to back. This dreaded week causes students an immense amount of stress, and the difficulty of studying only increases as the week goes on as exhaustion takes over.

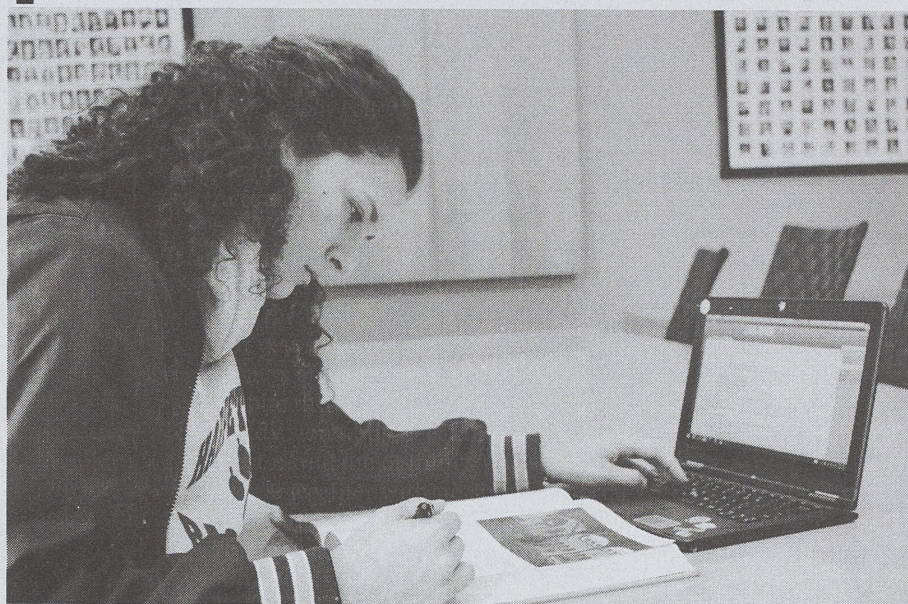
This year, Harpeth Hall decided to spread exams across a two week period and give students the weekend to study, alleviating the strain of cramming exams into one week. This new change will bring many benefits, including having a weekend in between exam days. This will allow for much needed rest and replenishment for the students, as well as provide additional time to study.

Sleep is highly desirable among the Harpeth Hall community and often lacking, especially during the week of exams. "I'm often tired," said sophomore Seville Croker. "I'll take any extra sleep that I can get!"

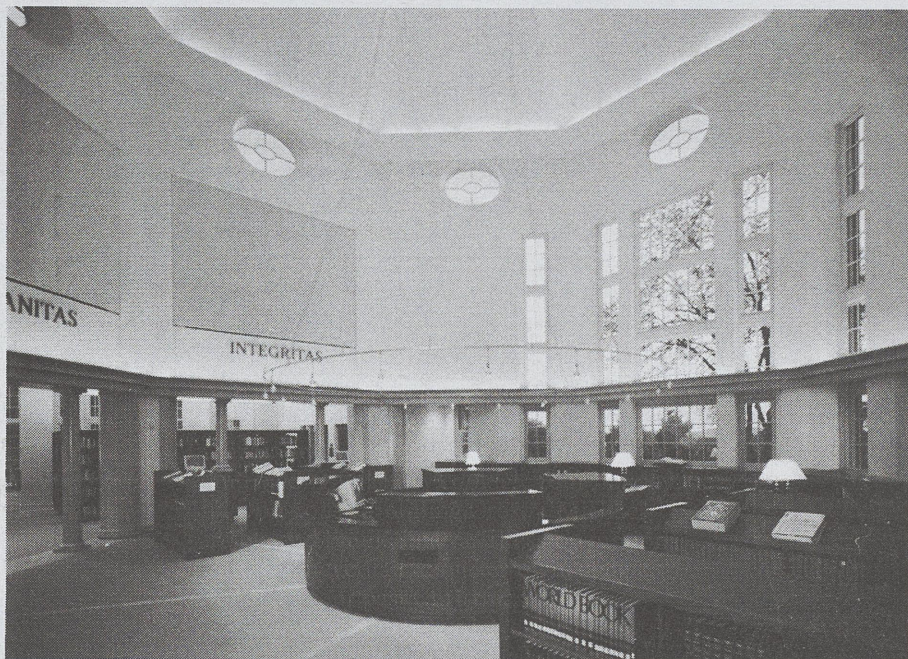
Many students wholeheartedly agree with her. Sophomore Sarah Parks said, "Splitting up exams will prove to be a beneficial change. It lets me take breaks and recharge for the last three exams to come."

Along with sleep, students get an extra two days worth of weekend free time to study as they choose. Dedicating some study time throughout the weekend will surely raise exam scores for many. More review time leads to higher material comprehension and, ultimately, better grades.

Overall, the general response from students about the exam schedule shift is immensely positive. Both Harpeth Hall students and teachers are hopeful that this change will help students both perform better and take better care of themselves, from more sleep to higher grades.



EXAM PREP: Senior Taylor McDermott studies in the library in anticipation for December exam. Photo by Kathleen Norton.



SECOND HOME: The Ann Scott Carrell Library represents a home base for dozens of students each day as they anxiously prep for exams. Photo courtesy of www.orionbldg.com.

CON

BY KEONA DORDOR
Staff Writer

Although the switch to having exams across two weeks was made with the intentions of giving students more time to study, there are many disadvantages to this change. Ultimately, under the new system, students will lose more than they gain.

One disadvantage of this switch for students is its effect on Winter Break. While some Harpeth Hall breaks like those for Fall and Thanksgiving are notoriously short, Winter Break has always been a much-appreciated lengthy period. With the alteration to the timing of exams, however, the number of days we get for Winter Break decreases by a significant number. This means less time to rejuvenate for the next semester, which is especially undesirable considering we will have just finished busting our brains with information for exams.

Another issue with this new schedule is the later dates on which exams fall, therefore prolonging the first semester. Some teachers might use this as an opportunity to teach more material, which translates to more information we must study for our exam.

While this change was made in order to benefit students, this method of abating our stress levels is flawed. To better address this issue, more days could be added to our breaks or the dates of exams could be moved up slightly. With some fine tuning, the adjustment of exams' structure could yield positive results.

"I feel that splitting up exams is kind of a waste of time," said senior Camille Patton, "We have two or three days at the beginning of the week basically just doing nothing. I'd much rather just review over the weekend and get exams over sooner."

Although the idea of splitting up exams seems like it may give us more time to study, it only shortens winter break and lengthens exam week.

Understanding the secret stress of "Secret Santa"

BY HAV NONA GAIE WHITING
Staff Writer

With the holiday season quickly approaching, the halls are buzzing with arrangements for winter vacation trips as well as plans for the perfect gifts for friends.

A staple of my childhood was always playing Secret Santa, a game where friends anonymously exchange personalized gifts without revealing themselves until the very end. This game, at a superficial level, is relatively benign--nothing screams holiday cheer quite like consumerism.

In the past, I've had the pleasure of being gifted a cheerful eyeshadow palette from Claire's and a silk scarf from Madewell. In return, you can find me scouring the shelves of Sephora or Parnassus to find the perfect gift for a friend.

It wasn't until recently that I realized that this might not be everyone's reality. Not everyone is able to give Secret Santa gifts purchased at Claire's, Madewell, Sephora, or Parnassus.

With the growing economic divide sweeping the United States as well as most other parts of the world, the well-cultured Harpeth Hall student body is no stranger to the poverty in the world and in our own city.

Why else would we fundraise for our various initiatives in Lwala or our missionary work right here in Tennessee?

I've determined through a few interviews with my classmates as well as casual lunchtime conversation that it is not a lack of empathy that constructs what we affectionately call the "Harpeth Hall Bubble," but instead a lack of awareness.

In one school, we have a staggering variation in socioeconomic class that is downplayed at Harpeth Hall. This is beneficial because we do not suffer from the same class discrimination that wracks other schools, but it is also detrimental, especially around the holiday season, when we tend to assume the financial equality of all students.

"It bothers me because I feel like people don't realize that there is a world outside of Belle Meade, you know?" said sophomore Abigail Nichols. The other students at the lunch table nodded in fervent agreement.

When asked what Harpeth Hall could do to shed light on the socioeconomic disparities without being too obvious, sophomore Grace Scowden said, "I guess just tell people not to assume that everyone is the same. Just because someone seems



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN: Presents await unwrapping at a recent Harpeth Hall secret Santa party. Photo by Maggie Sullivan.

privileged or like they have a lot, you don't know that for sure."

I gave them the example of Secret Santa, asking them if they were to see their friends receiving expensive presents would they feel a pressure to match or exceed the price tag.

A student who has requested to remain anonymous shared that, "Although my family has way less than most other families [at Harpeth Hall], I would still feel uncomfortable

telling my friends I couldn't afford an expensive gift."

At its core, regardless of religion or denomination, the holidays are a season intended to be a time of giving thanks, showing love, and bringing positivity into the lives of those around you.

This holiday season, I encourage you to take a needle to the bubble, and give the greatest gift: the gift of awareness and understanding.

Sexual assault allegations finally coming to light

The entertainment industry is being forced to open its eyes to sick power dynamics

BY ELLIE SEEHORN AND LC ESSARY
Staff Writer and Arts & Entertainment Editor

Three rape claims and over fifty sexual assault allegations arose against film producer Harvey Weinstein early this October, followed closely by claims against twenty-three (and counting) other men within the entertainment industry, according to the New York Times.

Many men have allegedly taken advantage of women trying to make a name for themselves in the world of entertainment, including such household names as Kevin Spacey, Matt Lauer and Louis C.K. While accusations like these are troubling, what is even more concerning is how prevalent they are in the arts and entertainment industry.

Young women, like ourselves, are the group to most likely experience sexual misconduct. With so many girls at Harpeth Hall developing their passion for the arts, the possibility of facing harassment in the field they love elicits strong reactions. Mary Catherine Claverie, sophomore and vocalist, says that she works with many males whom she trusts and is shaken by the actions taken by those in positions of power.

"I trust these men because they love what they do and they're good people, and just, the whole idea of being sexually assaulted, especially in the music business or in film production, makes me sick," Claverie said. "These people who you're supposed to trust and you're supposed to love and who are your colleagues just doing that horrible

thing is a violation of music, film, acting something that brings us together as a community."

While some like Claverie are hurt by the onslaught of records of abuse, others question the reality of the claims brought forth. People who are suspicious of the sheer quantity of abuse reports cite the fact that hundreds of these allegations have come to the surface in the span of a few weeks as grounds for invalidity of claims.

With the percentage of false rape reports sitting at 7%, according to the Washington Post, this suspicion is not entirely unfounded, but there are still 93% of cases left that have been reported truthfully. "Why would someone ever lie about that happening to you?" Claverie said. "A, it's disrespectful to the people that it has happened to. B, it will not get you the attention you want. C, coming forward about stuff like that is really, really tolling on yourself and your body, it's reliving the whole experience, so of course it is true."

Some of the allegations that have come to light recently are decades old, such as Gwyneth Paltrow, who spoke with the New York Times about unwanted advances Weinstein made on her in a hotel room twenty-three years ago.

Harpeth Hall girls have responses to the allegations that are equally passionate to those in the industry themselves. When asked why they believe it took so long for allegations to come to light, "It's extremely difficult to come out as an assault victim" Croker says, a sophomore and six-year member of the Harpeth Hall



SURVIVORS NOT VICTIMS: Just a small number of the over 80 women who have revealed Harvey Weinstein's sexual assault and sexual advances. Photo courtesy of Chris Jancelewicz.

dance company. "Especially if you are a woman and the attacker is your employer or someone above you has complete control with your career and life".

Croker believes that this scenario also accounts for why the recent sexual assault allegations have been so centralized in the arts and entertainment industries. In other fields, it is far less common for one individual to have complete control over an entire project, lessening the chances that they could ruin someone's career at whim for not

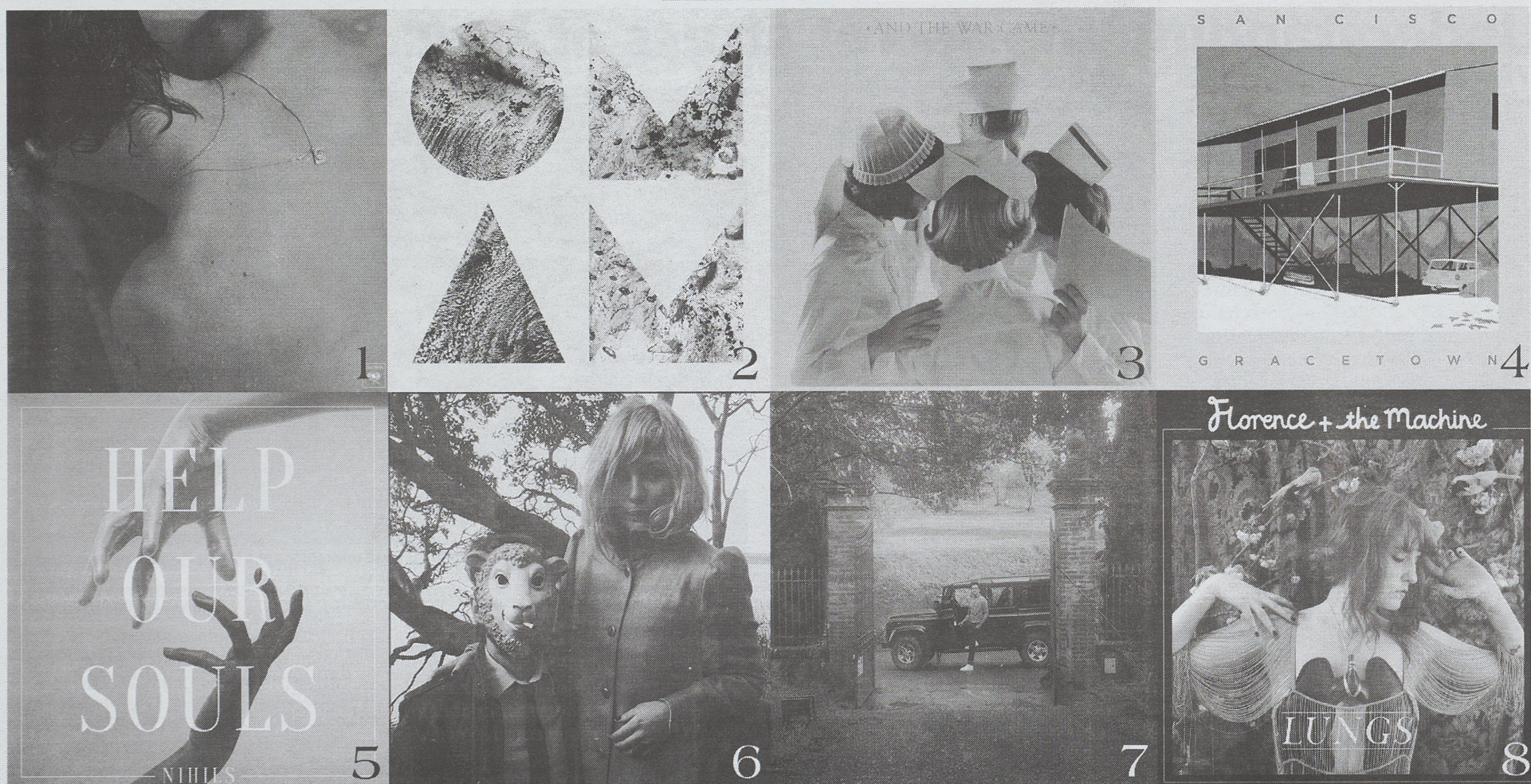
reciprocating sexual advances.

The Harvey Weinstein allegations and others of their kind bring to light a problematic trend in the arts and entertainment industry. Decade-old power balances have led to recurrent victimization of up-and-coming talent that go unreported for fear of ruined careers. As the creative industry that unites us has been overshadowed by repeated abuse, the community has reacted with disgust, and found this to be a violation of sanctity of the arts.

Alternative Playlist

BY LC ESSARY AND SOPHIE MCKENZIE
Arts & Entertainment Editors

Follow us on Spotify @hhlogos



1. Carolina by Harry Styles, 2. Black Water by Of Monsters and Men, 3. Pansy Waltz by Shakey Graves, 4. Bitter Winter by San Cisco, 5. Help Our Souls by Nihils, 6. Coeur D'Alene by The Head and the Heart, 7. May I Have This Dance by Francis and the Lights, 8. Drumming Song by Florence and the Machine.

Hoodie Allen rises to fame

BY LC ESSARY

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Don't you mean "Woody Allen?" Is that a sweatshirt brand? Excuse me, but isn't that a piece of clothing? These are all questions that most people ask when I mention THE Hoodie Allen. To answer these questions: No... to all of them.

Steven Markowitz, more famously known as Hoodie Allen, was born on Aug. 19, 1988 in New York City. After graduating college, he went on to pursue the "American Dream." Soundcloud rapping. From there, he released many songs, some being already beloved songs with his own special twist. Soon, he released his first of many albums with songs featuring artists like Ed Sheeran, blackbear, and Chance the Rapper.

Currently, he is on tour, with stops in very disparate places including New York City, Nashville, and all the way to Amsterdam.

Although he is already touring internationally, most of his fans believe that he is one of the most

underappreciated rappers, since he still remains relatively unknown, so far.

Hoodie Allen is overlooked because most people judge him based off of his stage name, Hoodie. His particular name is very fitting to his personality and the persona that he embodies since his distinct name highlights his distinct voice and sound.

First off, Hoodie Allen does anything to reach out to his fans. Not only does he often interact with them through social media and concert meet-and-greets, but he also set up a specific phone number for him and his biggest fans to talk.

A common theme in the entertainment industry is to forget about what made them famous: their fans.

His rapping, singing, and love for his fans makes him a triple threat to watch out for, so, next time Billboard comes out with their Top 100, look for his unforgettable name, Hoodie Allen.



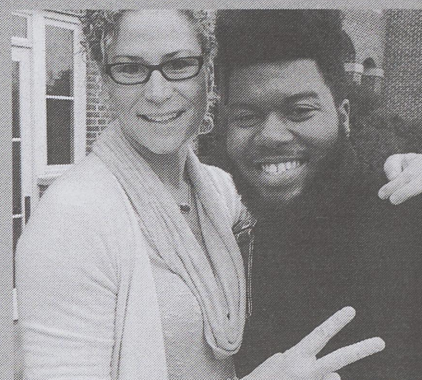
OCEANS OF FANS: Hoodie Allen rides the "waves" of his adoring fans in New York City on March 22, 2016. Photo courtesy of LC Essary.

In the city of the 6-1-5

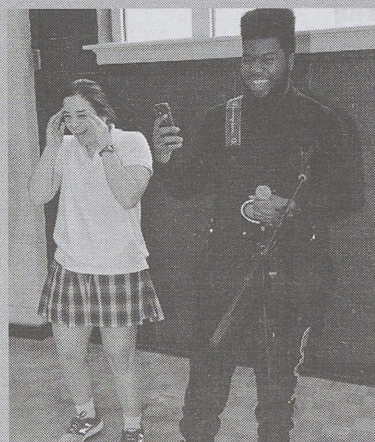
BY SOPHIE MCKENZIE AND LC ESSARY

Arts & Entertainment editors

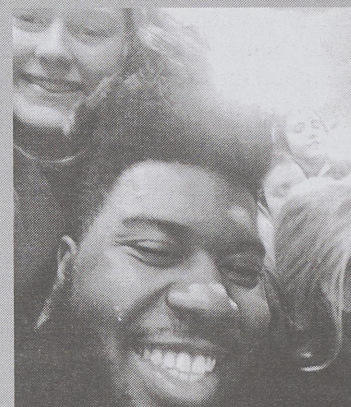
The worst thing that anyone could have done this month was miss school on Dec. 8. On this day, the great Khalid came to Harpeth Hall, surprising the middle and high school. During his visit, he answered questions, sang some of his most popular songs, and even sent wishes to the senior's prom. This experience is truly one of a kind and Harpeth Hall will not forget it.



THROWING UP DUCES: Coach Karen Sutton poses with Khalid in front of Patton. Photo courtesy of @22beads on Instagram.



JUST WAIT FOR MARCH: Thrilled junior Tess Herzog asks for a contribution from Khalid for the yearly prom video. Photo courtesy of Peyton Houge, HH SmugMug.



NOT HOODIE, BUT STILL OKAY: Hoodie Allen super-fan LC Essary gets a selfie with another famous singer. Photo courtesy of @lc_essary on Instagram.



A MINI-PERFORMANCE: Khalid talks to the Upper School and sings parts of "8TEEN" and "Location" in Bullard Gym. Photo courtesy of Peyton Houge, HH SmugMug.



BEST SELFIE EVER: Smiling junior Gracie Stambaugh gets a picture with our famous guest. Photo courtesy of @gracie.stambaugh on Instagram.

Editors bring you their favorite podcasts of the season

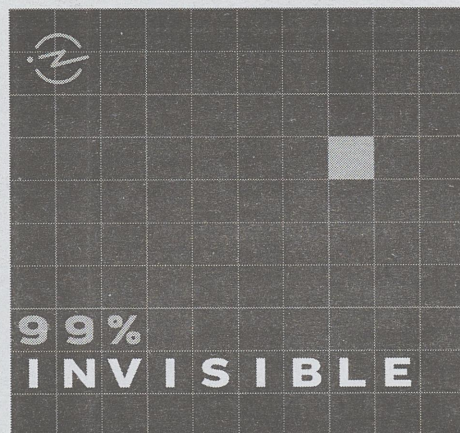


Dirty John

BY SOPHIE MCKENZIE

Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Dirty John has all the drama, thrills, and deception sought from the true crime genre. This 6-part podcast from the Los Angeles Times is hosted and reported by Christopher Goffard. It tells the haunting, true story of distinguished California interior designer Debra Newell and her relationship with her new boyfriend, John Meehan, who seems to have more demons than he is letting her know."



99% Invisible

BY MAGGIE SULLIVAN

Opinions Editor

"99% Invisible focuses on aspects of architecture and design that often go unnoticed. Each episode, it focuses on something many people encounter in their daily lives but never think about - things like jingles, flags, and subway benches. It examines these small but important designs and the thought that went into them. It also looks to the future of design and the ways it can be used to fix important problems. It's an educational and engaging podcast without being highbrow."



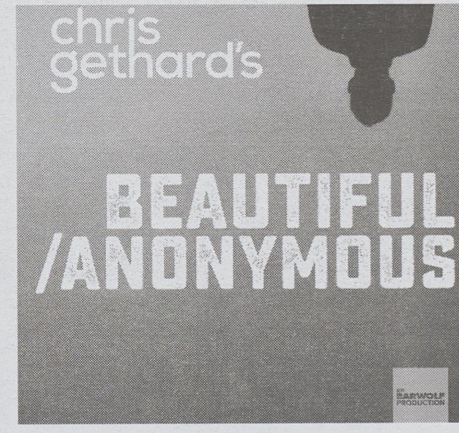
WITH TERRY GROSS

Fresh Air

BY BUSHRA RAHMAN

Editor-in-Chief

"My Winterim experiences at NPR sparked my interest in this podcast. Apart from being an NPR enthusiast and listening to the radio station regularly, I love listening to NPR's Fresh Air, because it gives me an insightful breakdown of the week's news and new perspectives on these issues. They always call in the most interesting people to interview who add so much more depth of the headlines we see everyday on the news."



Beautiful/Anonymous

BY BIANCA SASS

Opinions Editor

"Beautiful/Anonymous (also called Beautiful Stories from Anonymous People) is a podcast hosted by Chris Gether, during which he takes one anonymous caller to talk about anything they want to for the duration of each hour long episode. Oftentimes they talk about their professions, which are usually pretty unique--like a chaplain--or a hardship they're going through. There are sixty or seventy episodes, and it's such a cool way to learn about people's lives that seem incredibly foreign. It feels pretty intimate since you're essentially listening to someone's one on one phone call."

Jervis perseveres through her fifth marathon

BY MARGUERITE TROST
Staff Writer

Maybe you've seen her speed by on one of her long runs along Belle Meade Blvd. Maybe you've been an athlete on her cross-country squad. Maybe you've just admired her muscle tone walking by her French classroom.

With all this in mind, it may come as a surprise that French teacher Jenny Jervis still gets nervous before a race. Her nerves were especially high right before her fifth marathon, one blustery, cold Sunday morning in Philadelphia this November.

Part of it was a last-minute race strategy dilemma. Normally, Ms. Jervis starts her marathons at a steady pace and works on negative splitting in the last thirteen miles. However, facing strong headwinds in the second half of this marathon, she had to bank faster miles in the first half. Luckily, it worked out for her.

The bigger part of Ms. Jervis's nerves was the degenerative disk disease, a painful osteoarthritis of the spine, with which she was diagnosed about five years ago. It has held her back at various points of her running career. "I was having a lot of pain and I wasn't sure I was actually able to do it," Ms. Jervis said of her most recent marathon on Nov. 19.

She went on to explain that this was also how she felt going into the marathon that qualified her for the Boston Marathon -



MISSION COMPLETED: Coach Jenny Jervis smiles triumphantly with Harpeth Hall alum Kate Goldenring ('15) after the Boston Marathon in April 2017. Photo courtesy of Stefanie Chiguluri.

by thirty seconds - which was a pretty shocking achievement for her.

The marathon was an epic experience. "People will tell you if you have the chance, it's totally worth it," Ms. Jervis said. "Bostonians are so supportive of that race. The course is lined the whole way."

Her defining Boston moment came in the final stretch, maybe two or three miles to go, with

a chance encounter with a bystander. "I was spent, I had no legs left, but I knew my brother and my friend were waiting for me at the finish line. I just wanted to finish strongly...and this guy on the sidelines knew I was hurting," Ms. Jervis said. "He looked at me and said you are doing awesome, and he totally looked me in the eyes, saying 'you can do this, you can do this,' and it completely buoyed my

spirits. I couldn't believe how much that eye contact meant, and it really gave me that last surge I needed to get through those last couple of miles."

Since then, Ms. Jervis has tried to pay it forward when cheering on other marathoners with that shared energy. "As a whole, the running community really supports each other. If somebody's hurting, there's a lot of people reaching out to try and

encourage them," Ms. Jervis said. She cites senior Kaili Wang's recent heroic finish line collapse at the state meet as one of the most remarkable events in her time as a coach.

Solidarity and community are subjects that come up often in Ms. Jervis's French classes. Her identity as a coach, runner, and teacher all feed into each other. She uses her discipline, organization and precision to learn the French language and train as a runner, and she hopes to pass on to her students and athletes.

It's the discipline that got her through training for a marathon while both working at Harpeth Hall and coaching a successful cross country team. In her eight years of coaching, she's managed to train for a marathon not once, but four times during the cross country season, with the exception of the Boston Marathon which was in the spring.

"There were many days when I was getting up at 3:30 in the morning to get the run in before school, so that I could be ready and primed for school, and then after work, I could be totally present for coaching, Ms. Jervis said. "That all required a lot of sacrifices and a lot of discipline. But it's all a part of who I am, setting goals and doing my best to achieve them."

Between her marathons, teaching, and coaching, Ms. Jervis can be an example for her. Her perseverance and drive continue to astound and inspire everyone around her.

New wide receiver Eric Decker at home with Titans

BY CAMDEN JOHNSON & LEELEE DENTON
Sports Editors

At 8-4, the Tennessee Titans are primed to make the playoffs for the first time in nine years. To get an inside look on the Titan's successful season, Logos interviewed Eric Decker, a wide receiver on the team.

Eric Decker was drafted to the Denver Broncos in 2010. However, after four years of being a Bronco, he was traded to the New York Jets. This year, Decker was released from the Jets before being signed by the Titans in June.

To this point in the 2017-18 season, Decker has enjoyed success as a complementary piece in the Titans offense. Decker has 37 receptions for 353 yards and one touchdown. He is third on the team in both receptions and receiving yards.

Decker had a home in Nashville prior to joining the team, so signing with the Titans made sense.

"It's been great. It was an easy transition, especially since this is my home," Decker said about joining the Titans. "I have great teammates and great coaches. The city is great, as you know."

Currently, in a playoff position, the Titans' Dec. 3 victory over the Houston Texans was a big one.

In anticipation of the game, Decker



CHANGING SCENES: Eric Decker, sporting his 615 hat, signs to commit to the Tennessee Titans on June 18 at a press conference. Photo courtesy of TitansOnline.com.

reflected on its importance. "We gotta beat the hell out of them. This is a big game because it's a division game, and we got beat up last game. The Texans gave us their best shot last year, but we have to give them our best shot this year. We

have to protect our home field." Decker's 3 catches for 27 yards helped the Titans secure the big victory.

Decker and the Titans do not always focus on football. Several NFL teams, including the Titans, advocated for

My Cause My Cleats, an organization that allows players to design cleats to promote causes that they are passionate about. Decker wore cleats supporting his organization, Decker's Dogs, which is a program designed to raise money to train service dogs that help military service members and veterans.

Outside of football, Decker enjoys spending time with his wife and kids, going down to Virago in the Gulch and walking around End Street. Decker considers himself a big Predators fan and roots for them with friends and family.

With a busy schedule, he finds it hard to balance his family life with his football life; however, he is expecting a third child soon and plans to spend even more time at home.

One of the Titans and the Decker's goals is to earn a Super Bowl ring. It shows the growth of the team since this is the first time in many years that a Super Bowl ring is attainable. The Titans appeared in the Superbowl in 2000 and won two AFC Championships, in the 1991 and 1993.

With the Super Bowl ring or at least a division championship motivating them, Decker and his team hope to continue down the road of success throughout this season.

"We're in a good position," Decker said. "We are in a mindset that we can be better, and we haven't played our best football yet."

Senior athletes prepare to blast off to college

BY HALLE PETRIE

Sports Editor

Senior athletic signing day has come and gone, but the excitement still remains within the student body.

This year, seniors Marguerite Trost, Lilla

Caton, Julia Jane Eskew and Lauren Lee were sought after by countless colleges, but on Nov. 8, these outstanding girls signed to continue their athletic passions at their chosen college. We have provided you with a snapshot of each athlete!



SIGNED, SEALED DELIVERED: Lee, Eskew, Trost, and Caton represent their galaxy sisters on Nov. 8 after signing their National Letters of Intent. Photo by Kathleen Norton.

Julia Jane Eskew, University of Virginia, Swimming

Julia Jane Eskew, our swimming senior, has committed to University of Virginia. "Offering a rigorous education and swimming program, Virginia proved to be the best fit for me!" Eskew said of her choice. "Ultimately, I felt the most at home while on campus and loved the current members and coaching staff on the swim team."

She voiced her concerns about adjusting to a new place and new people because of her close relationships in Nashville, but she is still very excited for this new experience.

"Although it may take time to adjust

to the college lifestyle, I cannot wait to dive into my college classes and begin training," Eskew said. "I feel confident in Harpeth Hall's standout education and know I am well-equipped for my time at Virginia."

Starting at age eight, swimming has been a huge part of Eskew's life. "[Swimming] connects me with others my age across America and it has fostered many friendships throughout my time on high school and club teams," Eskew said.

She will certainly foster more friendships as she embarks on her collegiate adventure!

Lilla Caton, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Rowing

Lilla Caton has committed to rowing at the collegiate level. Signing to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, she is excited for what is to come. Caton loves rowing "because of the joy of getting into the boat and the goal of pushing your limits. Also, the feeling of coming off the water after a good race or practice is amazing."

Choosing her college was difficult, but she finally decided on U Mass. because of its school spirit, rowing coaches, the

school's culture and her instinct. "One of my favorite things we do is morning practices. They are a beautiful, fun, and calming way to start the day," Caton said. "We typically launch in the dark by 5 a.m. The water is almost always like glass that early, and then by the time we dock the sun is rising or has already risen." At University of Massachusetts Amherst, Caton will certainly experience more of these beautiful early (and cold!) mornings.

Marguerite Trost, University of Washington, Rowing

Marguerite Trost has committed to University of Washington in Seattle for rowing.

"I'm excited, and just the right amount of scared, for the empowering opportunity to pursue my passions, from rowing to environmental science to adventure," Trost said.

She began rowing her sophomore year, and along with her evident skill, her love for the sport has only increased. "I love

rowing because it's such an integrative community but also an outlet for self-competition, and it gets us out in nature," Trost said.

Trost appreciates how UW has the top rowing program in the country, but also the university's biological resources.

"I get to spend quality time and energy with quality people out on the water, which is not always quality water but great motivation for environmental activism."

Lauren Lee, Winthrop University, Lacrosse

Though Lauren Lee has known for over a year that she is going to attend Winthrop University, she officially committed on Nov. 8 to their lacrosse team.

"My team and I have already become super close so I'll have a family in school, which is exciting," Lee said. "I expect it to be really hard. I'll have to be able to manage my time well and be very efficient when doing work, but I'm very excited!"

Though Lee is ready for college, she values her time in high school; she fondly recalled a game her sophomore year when her club team played the No. 1

team in the country and won.

Ever since she started playing, Lee has excelled at lacrosse, and her drive to improve has been the first thing that her coaches and teammates comment on when talking about her short but successful lacrosse career.

"I love lacrosse because it is the perfect mix of an individual and team sport," Lee said.

"It's definitely not an individual sport, but it also pushes the individual athletes mentally; work ethic is what's most important."

Sophie Pilkinton thrives in the Yale natatorium

BY MOHINI MISRA

Staff Writer

"Inspirational." This was the first word spoken by a Harpeth Hall swimmer when asked about former teammate, Sophie Pilkinton.

It is no surprise that a swimmer spoken so highly of by her peers was motivated to pursue her sport in college. During her senior year as a member of the class of 2015, Pilkinton, along with being named Lady of the Hall and Harpeth Hall Athlete of the Year, eagerly signed on to swim for Yale University. Now a junior in college, she is thriving as a part of the Ivy League school's team.

Pilkinton started swimming for a summer league team when she was six years old. Always working hard, she grew to see unrelenting success during high school, swimming the intermediate medley (IM) and sprint freestyle. Yale evidently noticed her talent. Upon arriving at the New Haven campus, she continued to target the IM and sometimes mix in butterfly or breaststroke when in the natatorium.

When asked about this transition from high school to college swimming, Pilkinton said it was not the event change

that initially impacted her, but the fact that they spend 20+ hours a week practicing. This elevated time commitment was expected, but still required an adjustment period.

More practice means more time with the team, a thing Pilkinton values deeply about her experience as a Yale swimmer. Downplaying her own

individual successes, Pilkinton remains most proud of the women who she sees daily at practice. Both inside and outside of the lanes, she believes that the young women at Yale have the potential to change the world.

Reflecting on her decision to play a competitive sport in college, she concludes that, even with the sacrifices she has made,



JUST KEEP SWIMMING: Pilkinton with a fellow Bulldog at an Ivy League swim meet. Photo courtesy of Ophelia Pilkinton.

the community she has found through the sport makes the hours worth it.

"The team embraces the unity found within highs and lows of swimming and life itself, and that is priceless," Pilkinton said.

She also notes that college sports provide structure in a time when life can change significantly,

and she appreciates how easily she found a familiar comfort through swimming. Clearly, Pilkinton seems to have found her niche at Yale.

Yale's swim team has seen great success in the past three years, most notably at the Ivy League Women's Swimming Championships last February, where they took the first-place title for the first time

in 20 years. The team hopes to find similar success in 2018.

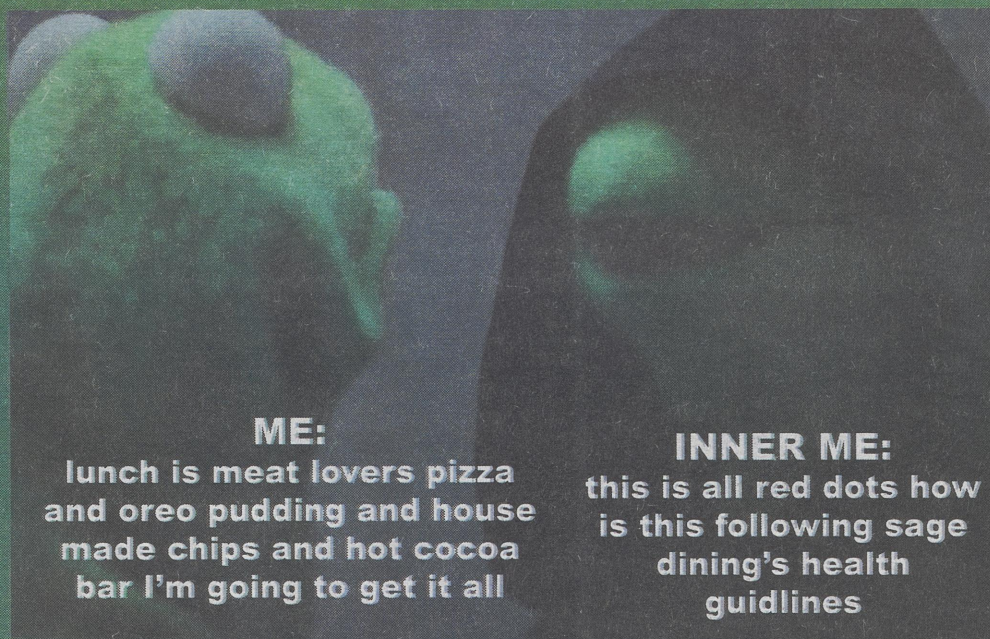
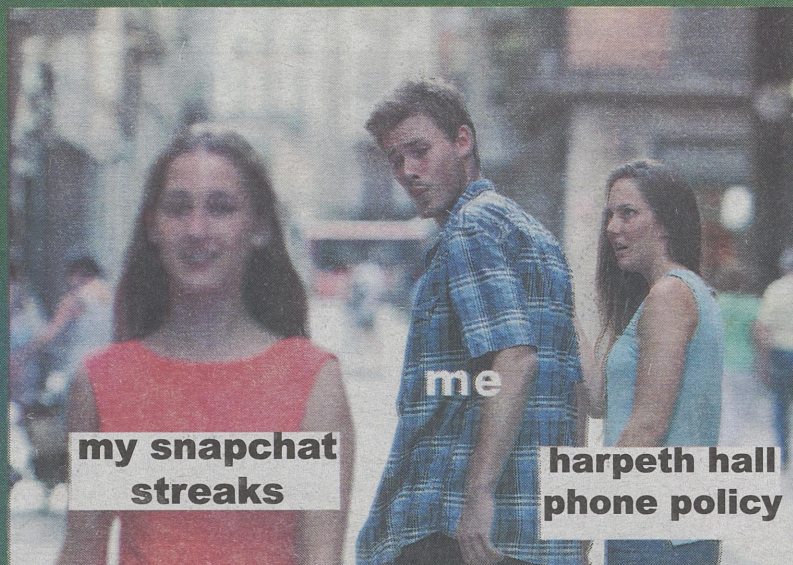
Although one would always aspire to reach such great heights as the swimmers of Yale did last winter, the decision on whether or not to be a collegiate athlete, if offered the chance, can seem daunting to any student.

Pilkinton recognized that signing on to Yale's swimming team would, in some ways, define parts of her undergraduate experience. However, she gladly provides words of advice to high school students considering to extend their athletic careers:

"College athletics will meet you with a challenge... but it comes with great reward. There is much refining in the process, much character to be developed, and much joy to be had."

She went on to say that if that challenge seems overwhelming, there is "still an incredible magic competing for Harpeth Hall. Be sure to cherish the memories you make at this school, regardless of your decisions for the future."

Although the transition to college sports has brought new teams, practice schedules and competition to Pilkinton's life, it is undeniable that she still remains the inspirational swimmer her Harpeth Hall teammate said she was.



HARPETH HALL MEMES

2017 at the Hall wrapped up in memes! From Sage dining to surprise stars, these memes comment on everything that makes this school great.

**By Audrey Overholt and Maclin Satz
Backpage Editors**

